

**RESPONSES OF JENNY LEE KRONK, APPOINTEE TO THE LAKE  
SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*1. What goals would you like to achieve during your time on the board?*

I would like to diversify the funding sources for the University. Rather than depending mostly on tuition and state appropriations, I would like to see the university more involved in alumni and community fundraising, as well as increasing its donations to the endowment fund. Perhaps a concerted effort at a new capital campaign would be helpful.

I'd also like to increase the enrollment and graduation rates. As a local, regional university, Lake Superior State University (LSSU) has many first generation college students who come from medium to low income homes and from counties with limited resources. I was one of those students. I'd also like to see our retention rates improve and also see career placements improve. Part of this plan would be to offer more scholarships in key disciplines such as engineering and nursing.

*2. In your discussions with the Governor's office prior to your appointment, what was the general charge given to you?*

I had only one contact with the Governor's office staff prior to my appointment. It was an interview regarding my qualifications and background. I was given no general charge by the Governor's office.

*3. Over the last 15 or 20 years it seems that all state universities have been expanding programs to try to offer everything to everyone. Do you think this is a good idea?*

Expanding programs is only a good idea if there is a need for persons trained in the discipline to fill jobs available in Michigan. For example, over the past few years LSSU has expanded its Nursing Program to help fill the state's critical need for nurses. It has also expanded its Fire Science program. LSSU has the only nationally accredited Fire Science baccalaureate program in Michigan. There was a definite need for expansion in the nursing and fire science areas.

*4. There is a proposal to separate funding of the State's three largest universities from the other twelve universities. Should the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University be funded separately?*

I don't think that separate funding will be helpful to the state. I have not seen an articulation of the rationale behind separate funding, so it could lead to division in the state's university community. Small regional universities such as LSSU contribute to the overall education mission of the state and should not be put in a separate category.

5. *Under what circumstances would you vote to increase tuition at your school?*

I would only consider raising tuition if the university's operational costs were greater than its revenues, and there was no other viable option but to raise tuition. If state appropriations go down and the university has no other means to raise the money through endowments, alumni fundraising, etc., or cost cutting, than I would consider raising tuition. If costs outweigh income, the only alternative is to raise tuition.

6. *Do you think your university has done a good job of controlling costs? Where would you find additional cost savings?*

LSSU prides itself on being one of the most efficiently-run universities in the state. To save money, the University could cut further staff or programs, consolidate services, defer maintenance if it would be safe to do so, or upgrade the physical plant if it would generate cost savings.

7. *What type of outcomes should the university measure to determine if it is being successful? (I.e. graduation rates, how long it took to graduate, job placement in the graduate's major, etc.) Does your university currently do anything like this?*

The university should look at how the students do on the specialized exams required in their majors, such as the Fundamentals of Engineering exam and the state nursing exam. Job placement numbers after graduation would also be beneficial to assess if LSSU is preparing its students for the work world. Graduation rates, considering those students who transfer, as well as length of time needed to get a degree are also helpful criteria to look at in the overall assessment of success. LSSU does all of these things in measuring the success of its educational mission.

8. *What is your position on the importance of state universities as authorizers of charter public schools?*

Universities have staff members who are knowledgeable in the education field and can offer follow-up through oversight and assessment as to how well the charter schools are doing. Having universities authorize charter schools takes the burden off the state bureaucracy and, therefore, charter school oversight is closer to the people and better able to meet educational needs.

9. *What is your opinion on the new constitutional amendment banning the use of race and gender preferences in public university admissions? How will you ensure that the amendment is implemented at your university?*

As an officer of the Court, I will follow the law. The people of Michigan have spoken and do not want affirmative action criteria considered in university admission deliberations. I have also read the *Guter v University of Michigan* opinion and will encourage my fellow board members to follow the law.

*10. In which areas of technological research does your university specialize? How effective is your school at commercializing this research to help grow the state's economy?*

LSSU is primarily a teaching university but it does have some research in engineering, aquatics, computer science, and geology, etc. LSSU is one of only two universities in the nation (along with Princeton) that offers a robotics and automation undergraduate program. LSSU has not focused on commercializing its research although its graduates work with in industry all over the state.

*11. Do you see postsecondary education as mainly a conduit to the work world or is there intrinsic value to pursuing a higher education.*

The primary purpose of post-secondary education is to give our citizens the skills they need to obtain good jobs and contribute to the Michigan economy in a positive way. There is intrinsic value to an educated electorate insofar as they have the study skills for a life time of learning to update their skills in an ever-changing global economy. Educated persons also make positive contributions to their communities by volunteering for the school board, little league, girls scouts, university boards, etc.

*12. Do you think that K-12 institutions are doing a good job of preparing students for college? Why?*

Overall, Michigan has a good, solid K-12 education system and our schools are doing a good job of preparing our children for college. However, statistics show that Michigan is below the national average in preparing its students to succeed in college. As a former MSU professor, I would have liked my students to have had better written and oral communication and study skills, but overall they were able to compete remarkably well with the students who had gone to school out-of- state.